

## NOTES &amp; NEWS

A New Species Record  
for *Mytilopsis sallaei* (Récluz)  
in Central America  
(Mollusca: Pelecypoda)

BY

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THE GENUS *Mytilopsis* is the only New World representative of the family Dreissenidae. Included in the genus are 6 New World species found from the southeast United States to Panama, and perhaps further south. All have been reported as inhabiting fresh to brackish water, all are byssiferous, and all have retained the trochophore and veliger larval stages in their invasion from the sea. All species have limited distributions, being generally confined to warm temperate or sub-tropical coastal bodies of fresh or brackish water. No overlap of species ranges has been reported, with the exception of the Panama Canal, in which both *Mytilopsis sallaei* and *Mytilopsis zeteki* have been found.

*Mytilopsis sallaei* (Récluz, 1849) was first collected by Auguste Sallé from the Rio Dulce, Republic of Guatemala. It was described as *Dreissena sallaei* in 1849, and reassigned to the genus *Mytilopsis* by Conrad in 1857. Since 1849, *M. sallaei* has been reported from the Gatun Locks, Panama Canal Zone (JONES & RUTZLER, 1975), and from the Visakhapatnam Harbor, India (RAJU *et al.*, 1975). In July of 1976, while studying the algal mats and stromatolites of Laguna Bacalar ( $18^{\circ}51'N$ ;  $88^{\circ}31'W$ ), Quintana Roo, Mexico, we observed significant numbers of *M. sallaei* residing on the soft benthic sediments of the lake. Specimens were collected and preserved for later examination. Identification was made with the help of species descriptions and comparison with specimens

of *M. leucophaetus*, with which *M. sallaei* is often confused.

This location (Laguna Bacalar) represents a new record for *Mytilopsis sallaei*. Its distribution in and around the lake has not been examined, but zoological work on this bivalve is forthcoming.

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Protoconch of Ovoviparous Volutes  
of West Africa

BY

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(1 Text figure)

THERE HAS BEEN a tendency among malacologists to interchange the words protoconch and nucleus. One glossary (BURCH, 1950) describes nucleus as "Apex or first part of the shell formed by the embryonic animal;" another (ARNOLD, 1966) as "the tip or earliest formed part of a shell." In most species this is true. Therefore, it was interesting to note that in ovoviparous volutes of the genus *Cymbium* observed in West Africa, the protoconch was the last part formed.

From the bodies of females, young were removed in various stages of development from yolk to completely formed animals with shells. In several instances the shells were found completely formed except for the protoconch. A ball of yolk rested where the protoconch would be formed ultimately. A thin wall of shell was formed between the ball of yolk and the remainder of the shell. A number of these was taken from different females. At least 2, developed to this stage, were brought back by the expedition.

In the newborn *Cymbium*, the protoconch is the most fragile part of the shell, being paper thin. If crushed, a ball of yolk is disclosed underneath.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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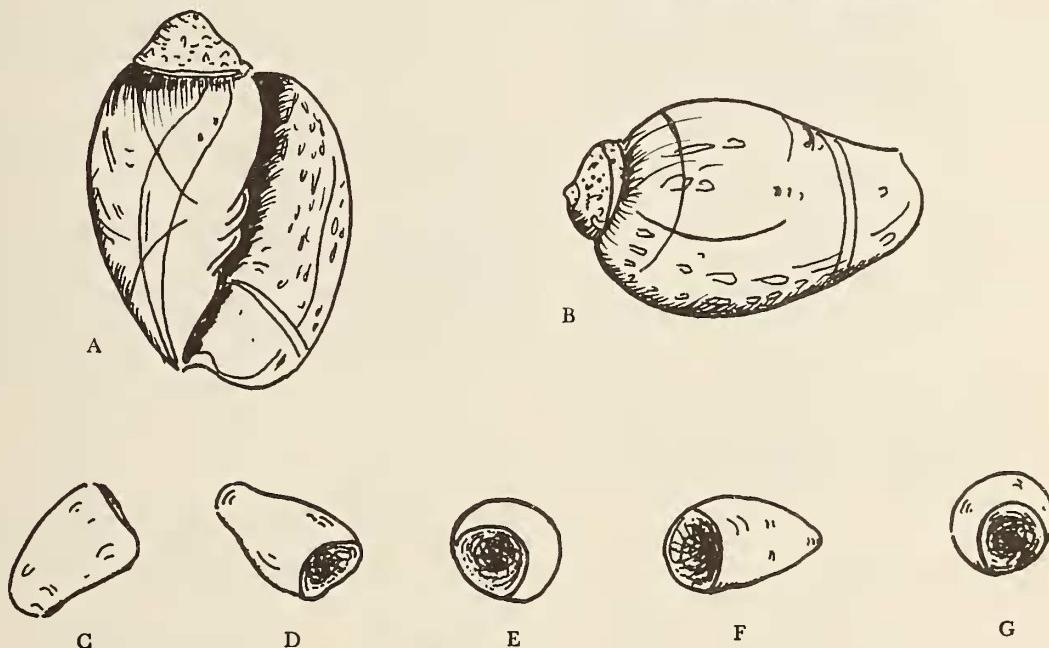


Figure 1

A & B - Newborn *Cymbium pepo* [Lightfoot, 1786], with fragile protoconch  
C through G - Unborn *Cymbium marmoratum* (Link, 1807) with shell developed except for protoconch

size X 0.8

## A. S. Z.

RICHMOND MEETING  
of the American Society of Zoologists,  
Society of Systematic Zoology,  
and the American Microscopical Society

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY of Zoologists, Society of Systematic Zoology, and the American Microscopical Society will meet at the Hotel John Marshall in Richmond,

Virginia, December 27 - 30, 1978. Very low room rates are available (\$18.- for single rooms and \$24.- for doubles). The call for contributed papers has been issued and abstracts for the American Microscopical Society are due August 1, 1978. The other two societies have an abstract deadline of September 1.

Symposia are being arranged on the following topics: Ultrasonic Communication in Rodents; Seasonal Breeding in Higher Vertebrates; Respiratory Pigments; Structure, Function and Environmental Adaptations; Thermo-regulation in Ectotherms; Insect Thermoregulation; Cell Surfaces in Development and Cancer; Competition between Distantly Related Taxa; Asexual Reproduction in Animals; Contemporary Methods in Systematic Parasitology; Philosophical Issues in Systematics; Morphology